## TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

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There's two bunches, two parts...pots of money things. here--Medicaid money and the money that not nearly the strings on it. The Medicaid money, as will be proposed, will go into Health and Human Services for Medicaid purposes, and the way that this is handled is that each quarter there's money released from the state...from the budget office to go to, in this case, Health and Human Services for Medicaid. The intent has been. and in the past has been, that the federal funds are spent first, i.e., those federal funds that will be coming in, and then we will save our General Funds to the extent that we can, and the idea would be in January we determine how those Medicaid funds best could be utilized. It's difficult here to put all this in one thing. This morning we learned it's going to probably take 45 days for rules and regs on the Medicaid funds and the others to be proposed, so it's a guess, but it could be August or September in the first place before these funds could flow to Nebraska. But as we have it now, the undesignated funds will go into the Cash Reserve and the Medicaid funds will go to the Medicaid accounts, if you will, and we would spend those federal dollars first and save our General Fund dollars, if until we come back in January. But the issue really is that we're going to need this money for cash flow. We are dangerously close to having to go even beyond our Cash Reserve and into the Universal Service Fund before this year or this late summer is over. And so, between that and the uncertainty of the economy, and Senator Redfield made those points, I think the most prudent thing that we can possibly do is to conserve this cash to the extent that we can. We already proposed, as of last week the Governor signed the bill, that money that would come will go into the Cash Reserve. That will be the \$58 million. That will be there. That way, we will have that back up for lowering the economy use for Cash Reserve or whatever. That will be automatic. Once again repeating, the Medicaid money will go where it's supposed to go to be used for what it's supposed to be. The other thing is that in our deficits we have a minimal amount, if you will, allocated for deficits. Traditionally, we've done...used to do \$1 million. Last few years we've done \$5 million. This year the actual fact was our deficits were \$22 million. So we are very...we are very tight on our proposals that we've left for deficits for this next year. And chances are very high most of that will be in